IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 46 and 47, without prejudice.

Please amend claim 19, with the clean version provided below to read as follows:

19(Twice Amended). The polynucleotide of Claim 18 wherein the HIV immunogenic epitope of step b) is a gene product expressed from an HIV gene selected from the group of HIV genes consisting of gag, gag-protease, and env or an immunogenic subportion thereof; the cytokine is interleukin-12, and the T-cell costimulatory element is a B7 protein

Please amend claim 20, with the clean version provided below to read as follows:

20(Twice Amended) The polynucleotide of Claim 19 wherein the env immunogenic epitope is a gene product expressed from an env open reading frame selected from the group consisting of HIV gp160, HIV gp120 and HIV gp41.

Please amend claim 25, with the clean version provided below to read as follows:

25(Twice Amended). A method for co-expression in a single cell *in vivo*, of at least two gene products, which comprises introducing between about 1 ng and about 100 mg of the polynucleotide of Claim 1 into the tissue of a mammal.

Please amend claim 35, with the clean version provided below to read as follows:

35(Four Times Amended). A polynucleotide which is non-replicating in eukaryotic cells *in vivo*, comprising:

a) a eukaryotic transcriptional promoter;

b) an open reading frame 3' to the transcriptional promoter encoding an immunogenic HIV epitope wherein the open reading frame has a splice donor sequence at the 5'-side of the open reading frame, a REV responsive element anywhere within the open reading frame, and a stop codon encoding the termination of translation of the open reading frame;

c) an internal ribosome entry site (IRES) 3' to the translation stop codon of the open reading frame;

d) an open reading frame encoding a spliced HIV REV gene at the 3' end of which is a translation stop codon;

e) optionally, 3' to the REV translation stop codon, a second IRES, followed by an open reading frame encoding immunomodulatory or immunostimulatory genes being selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, IL-12, interferon, and a B7 protein; and,

f) a transcription-termination signal 3' of the most downstream open reading frame of step d) or optionally, step e).

Please amend claim 48, with the clean version provided below to read as follows:

48(New). The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the first cistron contains an HIV *gag* gene or portion thereof which encodes a *gag* immunogenic epitope, the second cistron encodes a cytokine, and the third cistron encodes a T-cell costimulatory element, wherein the first, second and third cistron may be presented in any combination.

REMARKS

A Petition to extend the time for responding to the outstanding Office Action, for one (1) month, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is enclosed with this paper.

Claims 1, 5-22, 25, 35, 39-41 and 44-49 are pending in this application.

Applicants are pleased to see that claims 1, 5-18, 39, 40 (not listed on Form PTO 326), 41, 44, 45, 48 and 49 are allowed.

Claims 46 and 47 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the subject matter cancelled herein in a future continuing application.

Claims 19, 20, 25, 35 and 48 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of Applicants invention.

More specifically, claims 19 and 20 have been amended to more clearly recite protein-based epitopes, as indicated by the Examiner in his rejection of claims 19 and 20.

Claim 25 has been amended to recite the inconsistency regarding antecedent basis.

Claim 35 has been amended to correct an editorial oversight, now correctly referring to step e), not step f).

Claim 48 has been amended to more correctly depend from claim 1, not claim 12.

No new matter is added by amendment of claims 19, 20, 25, 35 and 48.